

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08860 221929Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 DHA-02 CU-02 /077 W

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R 221639Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9911

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK CONTROVERSY OVER HAVEL CASE

1. REFUSAL BY CSSR GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE EXIT VISA TO CZECH DISSIDENT WRITER VACLAV HAVEL TO ATTEND PREMIER PERFORMANCE OF HIS TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS IN VIENNA ON OCTOBER 9 AT GOA INVITATION HAS GENERATED SERIES OF STRIDENT GOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN VIENNA AND PRAGUE, EACH CHARGING OTHER WITH VIOLATING HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

2. ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN SOURCES, GOC OFFICIALS TURNED ASIDE REQUEST TO PASS ON INVITATION AND ASSIST IN ISSUANCE OF VISA BY CLAIMING HAVEL WAS NOT "OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CSSR CULTURE" AND THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH NORMAL PROCEDURES AVAILABLE TO ORDINARY CITIZENS REGARDING ISSUANCE TO OVERCOME CSSR INTRANSIGENCE BY CITATION OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN INCREASING EXCHANGE OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS IN ACCORD HELSINKI FINAL ACT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN PRESS REPORTS, CSSR DESCRIBED GOA INTERCESSION WITH PRAGUE GOVERNMENT AS "INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS" OF CSSR. ASKED ON OCT 20 ABOUT HIS VIEW ON SUBJECT, GOA EDUCATION MINISTER DESCRIBED CSSR'S HANDLING OF MATTER AS "UNFRIENDLY ACT" TOWARD AUSTRIA AND AS "VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS" IN ADDITION TO BEING IN

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 08860 221929Z

OPPOSITION TO SPIRIT AND LETTER OF BASKET III OF HELSINKI

FINAL ACT.

3. COMMENT: GOA TURNED HAVEL VISA ISSUANCE INTO TEST
CASE OF PRAGUE'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE ON OTHER
THAN OFFICIAL CULTURAL CONTACTS UNDER BASKET III OF
HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HAVING RECEIVED NEGATIVE RESPONSE,
VIENNA OPTED FOR TAKING TOUGH PUBLIC STANCE ON WHAT IT
CONSIDERED TO BE CLEAR CSSR VIOLATION OF HELSINKI
ACCORD. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXIT VISAS, WRITERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760397-0882
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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